

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTEV 02603 241808Z

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ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, PFOR, UY

SUBJ: NEW YORK MUSEUM OF MODERN ART'S PICASSO TOUR

1. ANGEL KALENBERG, DIRECTOR OF THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS OF MONTEVIDEO, CALLED AT THE EMBASSY ON AUG 23 TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE LOCAL MUSEUM AND NEW YORK'S MUSEUM OF MODERN ART. ACCORDING TO MR. KALENBERG,

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART IS INSISTING THAT URUGUAYAN OFFICIALS OBTAIN RIOT, CIVIL WAR AND INSURRECTION INSURANCE FOR AN EXHIBIT OF THE WORKS OF PABLO PICASSO BEFORE IT WILL AUTHORIZE SHIPMENT OF THE EXHIBIT TO MONTEVIDEO AS PART OF A LATIN AMERICAN-WIDE TOUR. (THE PICASSO EXHIBIT IS SCHEDULED TO OPEN IN MONTEVIDEO IN LATE SEPTEMBER) THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART IS ALSO INSISTING THAT ONE OF THEIR EXPERTS BE SENT TO MONTEVIDEO, AT URUGUAY'S EXPENSE, TO SUPERVISE THE UNPACKING AND PACKING OF THE EXHIBIT.

2. MR. KALENBERG STATES THAT THESE TWO CONDITIONS HAVE NOT BEEN MADE OF ANY OTHER COUNTRY ON THE TOUR. NOTING THAT CONDITIONS HERE ARE AT LEAST AS PEACEFUL, IF NOT MORE SO, THAN IN MOST OTHER LATIN COUNTRIES, HE FURTHER STATES THAT IF THESE "DISCRIMINATORY" CONDITIONS ARE MAINTAINED BY THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, LOCAL AUTHORITIES WILL CANCEL THE EXHIBIT HERE. THIS, ACCORDING TO MR. KALENBERG, COULD LEAD TO DENOUNCEMENTS OF THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART BY HIGH URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND WOULD "REDOUND TO THE DISCREDIT" OF THE USG IN URUGUAY.

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3. WE RECOMMENDED TO MR. KALENBERG THAT, IN VIEW OF LACK OF

USG INVOLVEMENT IN THE PICASSO EXHIBIT, HE SEEK A SOLUTION
TO THE ABOVE PROBLEMS DIRECTLY WITH THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: IN VIEW OF THE POSSIBILITY OF ADVERSE
CRITICISM, WOULD CU PLEASE CONTACT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
TO DETERMINE (A) THE REASONS FOR
THE TWO CONDITIONS OUTLINED
BY MR. KALENBERG, AND (2) WHETHER OR NOT THESE CONDITIONS ARE
UNIQUE TO URUGUAY. OBVIOUSLY THE USG CANNOT GUARANTEE THE
EXHIBIT'S SAFETY IN URUGUAY, BUT WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT
KALENBERG'S ALLEGATIONS THAT THE MUSEUM IS IMPOSING CONDITIONS
ON URUGUAY IT DOES NOT IMPOSE ON OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES
ON THE SAME TOUR.
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